

United States Treasury, but he declined, preferring the independence of a private gentleman, and shrinking from the glare of high official station. The fires of political ambition that have burned so fiercely in so many men, and burned out what was truest and best in them, had no place in his soul—a holier flame had been kindled there by the touch of a heavenly spark.

Such a life was naturally rich in noble Christian friendships. He had an apartment in his house called “the Bishop’s room,” which was occupied by Bishop McKendree and most of his successors. The two Pierces, of Georgia—the father, phenomenal in mental force and physical vitality, and his brilliant and consecrated son; the intellectually massive and sinewy Dr. William Winans; the wise and sweet-spirited Benjamin Drake; the godly and sagacious John Lane; the scholarly and noble Dr. William H. Watkins; the wiry and witty Thomas Clinton, and many others, both dead and living, of the servants of God, have occupied that prophet’s chamber; and every one of them entertained the sincerest admiration and affection for their princely host. “It was indeed,” says Bishop Keener, “as a blessing from the Lord to have been his bosom friend,